

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 MC-02 PRS-01 EB-07 EURE-00 /057 W

----- 079932

P R 091449Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9688

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR

OASF WASHDC

OASD/ISA

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1890

DEFENSE FOR INFO MCLUCAS AND ELLSWORTH

BRUSSELS PASS SHRONTZ PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP, MASS, NATO, NO

SUBJECT: AIRCRAFT REPLACEMENT

REFS: BRUSSELS 4099; BRUSSELS 4082

1. IN A CONVERSATION WITH DEFENSE MINISTER FOSTERVOLL THIS MORNING AFTER HIS RETURN FROM EUROGROUP MEETING IN LONDON, HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN THE ABILITY OF THE FOUR-COUNTRY GROUP TO REACH A DECISION BY THE END OF THIS MONTH. HE BELIEVES THAT THE MEETING OF PRIMIN TINDEMANS WITH THE PRESIDENT OF FRANCE TODAY IS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN THE DECISION MAKING. HE RECEIVED ASSURANCE FROM HIS COLLEAGUES OF A DECISION ON THEIR
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PART BY 31 MAY AND HAS FURTHER BEEN ASSURED THAT BELGIUM

WILL HAVE REACHED DECISION NO LATER THAN 29 MAY.

2. THE MEETING OF MOD'S SCHEDULED FOR 12 MAY HAS BEEN CANCELLED AND HAS NOT BEEN RESCHEDULED. MINISTER FOSTERVOLL SAID THE MOD MEETING WILL BE DECIDED UPON WHEN THE MOD'S MEET EACH OTHER AT THE 22 MAY DPC MEETING. THEY WILL REMAIN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH EACH OTHER UNTIL THAT MEETING. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT A MEETING AND FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE PART OF THE MODS COULD OCCUR PRIOR TO 31 MAY, HOWEVER MINISTER FOSTERVOLL DID SAY THAT AN EXTENSION OF THE 15 MAY DEADLINE BY THE U.S. TO 31 MAY IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT FOR THE OTHER THREE COUNTRIES.

3. HAVING RECEIVED CABINET APPROVAL FOR NORWAY TO PROCEED WITH THE F-16 PROGRAM AS A MEMBER OF A FIVE NATION CONSORTIUM, THE MINISTER HAS THE AUTHORITY TO SIGN COMMITTING DOCUMENTS SUBJECT TO PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL. THE ISSUES SURROUNDING THIS PROGRAM WERE THOROUGHLY AIRED PRIOR TO RECEIVING CABINET APPROVAL AND THE MINISTER FORESEES NO DIFFICULTY IN ACHIEVING PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL. AS THE NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENT ADJOURNS THE MIDDLE OF JUNE FOR THE SUMMER, THE ASSURANCE FROM HIS COLLEAGUES THAT THEY WILL HAVE ARRIVED AT A DECISION NO LATER THAN 31 MAY WILL PROVIDE NORWAY WITH ENOUGH TIME TO GAIN PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL. PARLIAMENTARY ACTION ON THIS MATTER CAN, OF COURSE, OCCUR ONCE THE FOUR COUNTRIES HAVE DECIDED UPON A COMMON COURSE OF ACTION AND PRIOR TO THE MEETING OF THE MODS.

4. THE STEERING COMMITTEE PROPOSES TO RECONVENE 13 MAY. THE REMAINING POINTS TO BE RESOLVED IN THE PRELIMINARY CONTRACT DO NOT CAUSE DIFFICULTY IN NORWAY.
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